

during the decisionmaking process. HUD, and the other parties to this consent decree, deliberately contrived to purchase houses using national guidelines in an original price range between \$74,500 and \$104,500 for a single unit of housing. When asked only as recently as last week, the communities, where six of the homes were to be purchased, provided lists of more reasonably priced houses as alternatives for purchase. The community leaders are making a good faith effort that is certainly more of a commonsense approach.

By concentrating the first 18 of these 23 house purchases in three communities, the tax revenue losses due to the tax exemptions for section 8 housing were directed unfairly at a relatively small number of communities and only one school district. We proposed that the scattered-site distribution be made throughout a wider geographic area so any revenue losses would be a burden shared fairly among the entire region. After all, the consent decree calls for the public housing to be located throughout Allegheny County, not just a limited portion of the county. And that brings me to the third area that HUD disregarded in its implementation. By purchasing less expensive houses, the tax revenue losses would be more bearable by the local governments and this would be a fair way to treat the citizens who already live in those communities.

The case concluded with a judge's consent decree which requires HUD to acquire 100 units of public housing within Allegheny County to be maintained by the county's housing authority. This still left open the question of how the decree would be implemented.

After the judge's ruling in December 1994, the parties involved in the lawsuit began making implementation plans, but they did not ask for any input from the communities involved. Some time before this past December, HUD decided that it would purchase 23 scattered-site single family houses in a small number of communities to begin implementing the decree. My observation is that there is a right way and a wrong way to implement such a consent decree. HUD and the others involved in this case have taken the wrong path and should go back and start over.

On Tuesday, HUD closed purchases on five of six houses, with prices of \$57,500, \$67,000, \$73,000, \$76,000, and \$76,595. The people in these communities work hard to have homes and some work two and three jobs to pay for them. Most of the people who live in these communities cannot afford to buy homes at those prices. What kind of a message is HUD sending when they use \$2.6 million of the taxpayers' funds to purchase 23 houses in 7 communities? Is this wise use of Federal funds? I don't think so.

Along with the local elected officials, I recommended that HUD help revitalize the housing stock in these commu-

nities by purchasing starter homes—homes that could be purchased for much less, and upgraded to improve the housing stock in those communities. This would be a win-win proposal and a commonsense approach to the problem.

I discussed this entire fiasco with Secretary Henry Cisneros recently and I thank him for listening. Now, I want him to act. This week I wrote this letter asking him to place the houses that HUD purchased this week back on the market. HUD needs to start over. And I am asking that he use the guidelines I just explained to implement the consent decree. If HUD is willing to purchase less expensive starter houses across a larger number of the 100 eligible communities and work with the community leaders to identify such properties, then we will solve this implementation challenge. We have been ready to offer alternatives and act in a cooperative spirit to assist HUD and the local housing authority in implementing this consent decree.

During the recent debate on H.R. 2406, the U.S. Housing Act, I discussed this issue with the Appropriations VA/ HUD Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Lewis, and I have his assurance that he will work with me through the appropriations process to develop legislative language ensuring that this kind of reckless disregard for the communities and extravagant use of taxpayer dollars does not continue. Public policy on housing and on other local issues should be developed with public participation and by extending a hand of cooperation. We are prepared to cooperate and help create a better life for every citizen in western Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### SALUTE TO LT. COL. HAROLD COHEN ON HIS RECEIPT OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. CHAMBLISS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to salute a remarkable man who is the subject of a remarkable story. Harold Cohen is a native of Spartanburg, SC. He is the son of a Russian immigrant.

In 1942 Harold Cohen entered the Army of the United States of America

as a private. Two and a half years later Harold Cohen was a major in the U.S. Army and a battalion commander. Ultimately Harold Cohen received the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army.

Colonel Cohen was a close personal friend and a colleague of Creighton Abrams. He and General Abrams served together as a part of General Patton's 3d Army. General Abrams was commander of the 37th Tank Battalion while Colonel Cohen commanded the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion.

It has been said of Harold Cohen as follows:

Often in the advance, Cohen's infantrymen would ride on Abrams' tanks. Cohen himself, remembered his men, was in constant motion. He sped up and down the column in a mud-splattered Jeep, pleading, coaxing and cursing. His high-pitched voice with his rich southern accent could be heard from great distances. Abrams as a tanker was impressed that infantry leaders like Cohen could motivate their men to move forward under fire with nothing but their OD shirts for protection and he often did so.

Harold Cohen became a real World War II hero. For the exemplary service that Harold Cohen rendered to his country, Harold Cohen received four Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, the Legion of Merit, the French Croix de Guerre, and awards from Poland, England, Czechoslovakia, and Luxembourg.

But the highest recognition of Harold Cohen was yet to come. Harold Cohen mustered out of the Army after the war and became a successful businessman in Tifton, GA. Creighton Abrams went on to become Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Dr. Lewis Sorley, who is a resident of Potomac, MD, wrote a book called "Thunderbolt." "Thunderbolt" included a long history of the life of Creighton Abrams.

During the course of writing that book, Dr. Sorley discovered that during the latter part of World War II, Harold Cohen was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross by his men for bravery performed by Harold Cohen during an event that took place on February 25, 1945. The paperwork on this particular recommendation for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross for Harold Cohen unfortunately became lost during the process of the end of World War II.

Dr. Sorley pursued the matter after he discovered this. He went to the U.S. Army, told them what had happened and thanks to his diligence, Harold Cohen today received the Distinguished Service Cross from Gen. Dennis Reimer, who is the current Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

The receipt today was very special, because Harold's wife Bettye; Harold's children Marty and Peggy; their grandchildren, Anna, Rachel, Michael, and Alan were also present.

I would like to take just a minute to read the citation that was presented to Harold Cohen today.

The President of the United States, authorized by an act of Congress dated July 9, 1918, has awarded the Distinguished Service

Cross to Lieutenant Colonel Harold Cohen, United States Army Retired, for extraordinary heroism in action. Lieutenant Colonel Harold Cohen distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism on February 25, 1945, when the situation became untenable during his battalion's attack upon Brake, Germany. Small arms, artillery and direct fire came from all directions. Colonel Cohen took a position of high ground in plain view of the enemy. Oblivious to all danger and constant fire that fell all about him, directed tank fire and lifted friendly artillery fire that was falling too close. His personal bravery, inspiring leadership and tactical skill retained the initiative and gained the important objective. Lieutenant Colonel Harold Cohen's quick heroic actions and personal courage reflect great credit on him and the United States Army.

Harold Cohen heads up my military academy appointment committee. I am very proud that Harold Cohen and his wife Bettye are my good friends.

There are two people who tonight are not with us, Gen. George Patton and Gen. Abe Abrams, who are very proud of Harold Cohen. They rolled over tonight and smiled as Harold Cohen received the Distinguished Service Cross from General Reimer. They are proud of you, Harold, as am I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BARR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BARR of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### BILL PASSES HOUSE INCREASING PENALTIES FOR WITNESS AND JURY TAMPERING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this week of legislation which I brought forward through the Committee on the Judiciary.

I wish to thank the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], chairman; the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM], chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime; the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS], ranking member; and the gentleman from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], subcommittee ranking member. Each of them played a part in making sure legislation which I introduced and unanimously passed this week which calls for additional penalties for witness intimidation, as well for juror tampering and juror intimidation.

This legislation was the outgrowth of an article that was part of a series in the Wall Street Journal which outlined a few years ago the fact that some of our Federal defendants saw fit to use self-help and intimidation on witnesses and jurors to get out of the substantive crime for which they were charged, and they had rather do that because the

law actually provided at that time the disincentive to use the tampering and risk maybe being found guilty of tampering, and they were, but they were found not guilty because of self-help, an illegality, of the major charge. Our legislation this week will change all that.

From now on, hopefully with the Senate's approval and the President's signature, our legislation this week will make sure that the penalties will be equal, the substantive events and the offense as well to tamper with witnesses and jurors.

I know that this will do a lot for us across the country. My own District Attorney Michael Marino from Montgomery County, PA, who endorsed legislation early on and also helped us receive the endorsement of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association had outlined very well that this legislation would very much help him prosecute criminals because witnesses and jurors would feel more secure.

In our neighboring county in Philadelphia, District Attorney Lynn Abraham had for a long time desired this kind of legislation because she has had difficulty getting the high conviction rate she wants for homicides. While her office does an excellent job, they are plagued with a problem of witness and juror intimidation in their cases.

Legislation like this and similar legislation to be passed in the 50 States for the State courts will go a long way for us in helping to make sure that prosecutions proceed, that justice prevails, and that those who are charged with crimes cannot use self-help any longer to exculpate themselves from those crimes and interfere with the court system.

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I also wish to note this week that this was an excellent week for our crime victims because three other bills were passed.

Megan's bill, by DICK ZIMMER of New Jersey; that legislation will require the registration of known sex offenders.

And, as well, legislation from DICK CHRYSLER of Michigan, that is going to add additional penalties for those who would commit violent crimes against children or violent crimes against seniors. They will in fact receive greater sentences than the Federal statutes call for today.

And, finally, legislation from ED ROYCE of California. This was a quest of his constituents, many of whom had come forward to him and especially one witness who appeared this week at the Capitol, explaining to us in very poignant terms about the problems of stalking in her State, the threats to those who are stalked and how we need tough Federal laws to prevent this crime and strong, stiff sentences for those who would commit. ED ROYCE'S bill this week will for the first time put teeth into the law, discourage stalking, and make sure that those who commit such heinous crimes will have to answer for them.

So I am happy to congratulate my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their bipartisan effort to help us fight crime, improve public safety, and make sure that our courts are in fact free of the intervention by those who would destroy the system, create threatening situations for victims, I think destroy the public's confidence in our own law enforcement. But these bills this week have made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support, and I thank the Speaker and my colleagues for your indulgence tonight.

#### REPUBLICAN BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for one half of the time remaining before midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I know that the hour is late, but I would like to address the Speaker and my colleagues tonight because today, in fact yesterday but we received more information today, the Republican leadership unveiled their budget, their budget for the next fiscal year. Very upsetting to me and I think particularly to senior citizens throughout this country, once again we see that the budget is very heavily dependent on cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, primarily once again to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans.

I think that we know that in 1995, all of last year, we went through a series of efforts with the Republican leadership budget to try to oppose what Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership were trying to do to Medicare. They repeatedly came up with budget initiatives that would have cut Medicare and Medicaid severely, again primarily to pay for tax breaks, and again those tax breaks primarily to wealthy Americans.

I had hoped because of the battle that ensued, that was largely taken up by Democrats against this proposal, that we would not see it raise its ugly head again. But in fact it has, and yesterday and today and I am sure over the next few weeks we are going to see again an effort to basically use the budget and use the cuts in Medicare and essentially pay for the Republican-proposed tax breaks on the backs of senior citizens.

Now, I know I am going to hear over and over again from the Republican side that that is not really what is happening here, what we are really trying to do is somehow protect Medicare, or that somehow the level of cuts that are being proposed by the Republican leadership are not that different from some of the things that the President or some of the Democrats have proposed over the years.

But I would point out that there are major changes in the Medicare and